



*From the office of*  
**Congressman Jim Himes**

[www.himes.house.gov](http://www.himes.house.gov) • 866-453-0028

## *Health Care Reform: Setting the Record Straight*

***The Claim:*** *The Affordable Health Care for America Act will lead to a “government takeover” of the health care system and will “destroy the private health insurance industry.”*

**WHAT THE BILL ACTUALLY DOES:** The Affordable Health Care for America Act builds on the current private, employer-provided health care system – and, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, will expand enrollment in private insurance by an estimated 6 million Americans. The bill is designed to help make the health insurance market work better – improving competition and choice for consumers with a one-stop shopping marketplace called the Health Insurance Exchange.

***The Claim:*** *The Affordable Health Care for America Act is “too expensive” and will “cause the deficit to explode.”*

**WHAT THE BILL ACTUALLY DOES:** Health insurance reform will be fully paid for over the next decade, and will not add one cent to the federal deficit. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the House bill will reduce the deficit by \$109 billion over the first ten years and will continue to reduce the deficit thereafter. With health care costs rising 10-15% a year and set to double over the next decade, what’s truly unaffordable is keeping the system the way it is.

***The Claim:*** *The Affordable Health Care for America Act cuts Medicare benefits.*

**WHAT THE BILL ACTUALLY DOES:** Nothing in the House bill will cut basic Medicare benefits. In fact, the bill strengthens and improves benefits for older Americans and helps eliminate waste, fraud and inefficiency from Medicare – including gross overpayments to insurance companies providing Medicare Advantage plans which do nothing to improve care for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries.

***The Claim:*** *The Affordable Health Care for America Act has been rushed.*

**WHAT WE DID:** After decades of debate and inaction we are now closer than ever to achieving meaningful health reform that will provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans. Since 2007, Congress has held over 100 health reform-related hearings, held 3,000 health care town halls and public events, considered a total of 239 amendments and approved 121. I have received over 5,000 individual calls and emails from my constituents in Fairfield County, I’ve engaged doctors, nurses, patients, insurers and community stakeholders in nearly 60 separate meetings, and over 3,000 people attended town halls across the district in August. We’ve discussed and debated for years—the time to reform our system is now.